

**664**

**6-708.3**

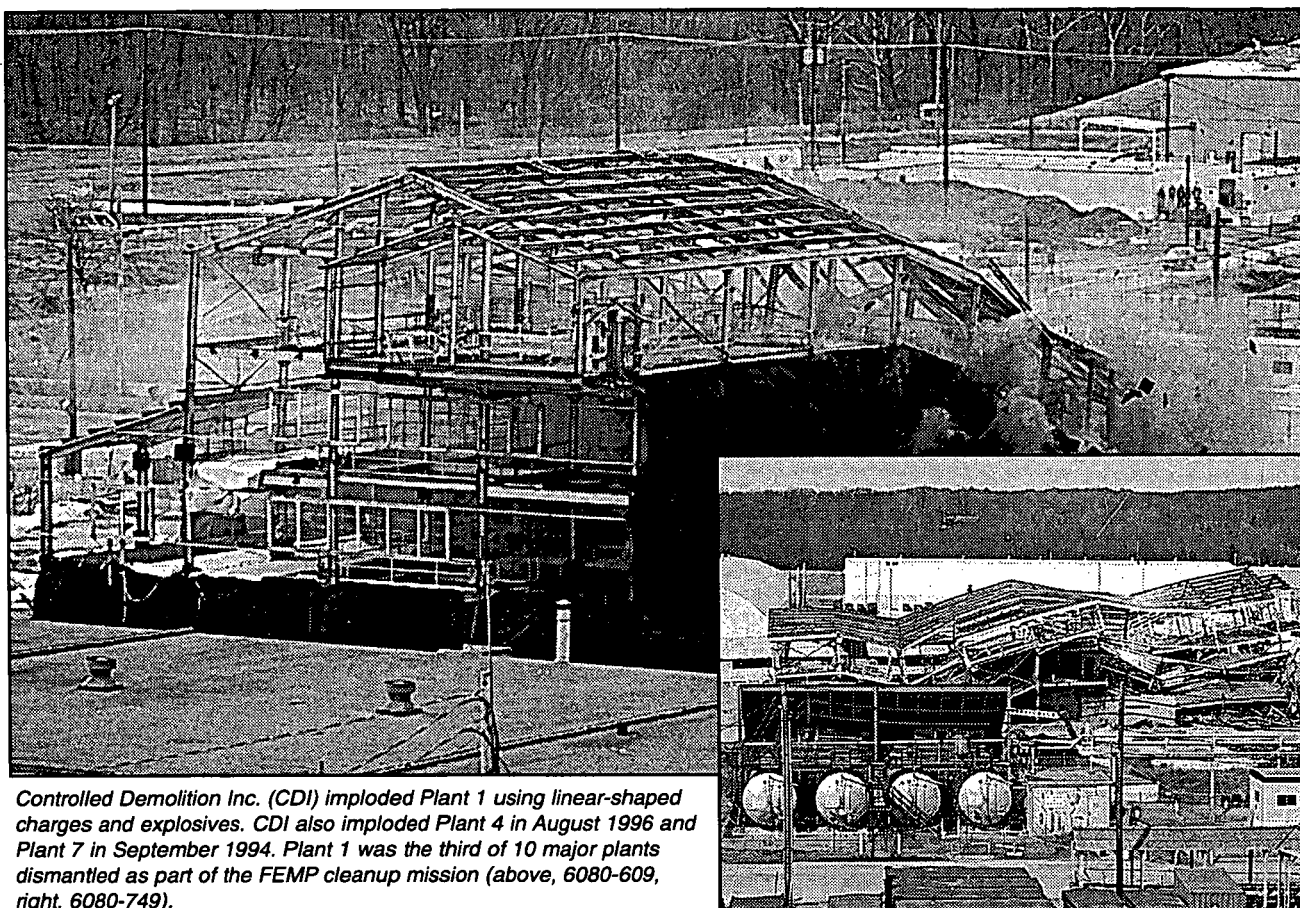
**FERNALD REPORT - MARCH 1997**

**03/01/97**

**DOE-FEMP      PUBLIC**  
**12**  
**FACT SHEET**

# *Fernald Report*

March 1997



Controlled Demolition Inc. (CDI) imploded Plant 1 using linear-shaped charges and explosives. CDI also imploded Plant 4 in August 1996 and Plant 7 in September 1994. Plant 1 was the third of 10 major plants dismantled as part of the FEMP cleanup mission (above, 6080-609, right, 6080-749).

## *Another FEMP Plant Goes Down in History!*

Despite extremely windy conditions the day before the Plant 1 implosion, the four-story steel structure was imploded around 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 22, before a crowd of employees, families and local stakeholders.

Plant 1 demolition subcontractor Babcock & Wilcox (B&W-NESI) has begun the next phase of the project, which involves cutting, segregating and stacking the structural steel and concrete on the Plant 1 foundation for future disposition. Material disposition will be consistent with the site-wide

remedial approach which involves balancing off-site disposal of highly contaminated wastes with on-property disposal of less-contaminated wastes. DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald will continue to evaluate alternatives to disposal, including metal recycling and reuse of equipment.

The next major decontamination and dismantling (D&D) project is the Boiler Plant/Water Plant Complex. (See the related article on page 5 of the *Fernald Report*.)

# ***FEMP Employees Assist Local Flood Victims***

In conjunction with the American Red Cross, FEMP employees recently assisted flood victims in the Tri-State area. More than \$12,000 was collected for the American Red Cross -- including a \$500 contribution from Fluor Daniel Fernald, a \$10,000 donation from Fluor Foundation and a \$500 donation from Dexter Lunsford, a Fluor Daniel Fernald employee who challenged his coworkers to meet his donation.



*Fluor Daniel Fernald employee Mike Davis is the chair for the Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland chapters of the American Red Cross. He was one of the many volunteers who recently helped bring relief and supplies to local flood victims (6547-32).*



*This photo of a home in Aurora, Ind., shows the devastation flood waters can bring (6547-9).*

More than five truckloads of supplies donated by FEMP employees were delivered to flood victims in Dearborn and Ohio Counties in Indiana and Sparta, KY. In addition to the items donated by FEMP employees, DOE donated excess equipment, including 250 pairs of work boots, coffee pots, glasses and cups and various kitchen equipment. Fernald Community Involvement Team members coordinated delivery of the donations.

## ***Building Trades Celebrate Safe Work Record***

Employees of the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council (GCBCTC) have not had a lost-time work accident since Fluor Daniel began operations at the FEMP in December 1992. This achievement computes to almost 2 million safe work-hours for subcontractor employees. "Our record is a tribute to the people who do the work," said Jerry Monahan, executive secretary, GCBCTC.

Lou Doll, GCBCTC site representative, credits strong training and apprenticeship programs for the safe work record. "Many of our people have worked at Fernald for a long time," he said. "We all benefit from their knowledge of the plant and the safety culture they have attained." Doll said he also believes daily line-out/safety meetings, where workers receive their assignments for the day, are beneficial. "It's a good check to make sure we're all on the same page and thinking about safety."

## ***A Message from Jack Craig:*** **General Accounting Office Finds No Evidence of "Danger & Deceit"**

On March 18, Senators John Glenn and Mike DeWine and Representatives Rob Portman and John Boehner released a statement concerning the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) report, Department of Energy: Management and Oversight of Cleanup Activities at Fernald (3/14/97, GAO/RECD-97-63). The report is available at the Public Environmental Information Center, 513-648-0164. We welcome the report and believe it puts to rest the allegations of "danger & deceit" as characterized by one Cincinnati newspaper.



*Jack Craig, DOE-FEMP director (6171-177)*

The GAO recommended that improvements be made to the Fernald contract and that DOE strengthen its oversight. We agree and have already begun to implement these recommendations. The GAO criticized our handling of the ongoing Vitrification Pilot Plant Project and the Uranyl Nitrate Hexahydrate neutralization project (already completed). Throughout the past two years, we acknowledged problems with these projects and discussed them publicly. In October 1996, we commissioned the Silos Project Independent Review Team to help find the best solution for remediating Silos 1, 2 and 3. The team represents world-wide expertise in waste stabilization technology; its recommendations will be published in a final report by April 15. DOE, Fluor Daniel Fernald, FEMP regulators and the Fernald Citizens Task Force will thoroughly review the recommendations.

Regarding the newspaper's allegations that Fluor Daniel Fernald "systematically cheated the government out of millions of dollars," the GAO report says: "we also provided numerous opportunities for workers and citizens from the Fernald area to provide us with information about possible financial or performance reporting improprieties. We did not receive specific evidences from workers and other concerned individuals that provided enough detail to warrant expanding our investigation."

Unfortunately, these allegations and the controversy that prompted the GAO report have obscured many significant accomplishments made during the past four and one-half years. For example, our initiative to accelerate site remediation will trim approximately 10 years from the original FEMP cleanup schedule, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. At current funding levels, the FEMP cleanup may be substantially completed by 2005. I'm proud of our progress. I invite you to visit the FEMP and see for yourself.

Jack Craig

Director, DOE-FEMP

*To arrange a tour of the Fernald facility,  
call Fluor Daniel Fernald Public Affairs,  
513-648-5883.*

## ***DOE Ohio Field Office Brochure Now Available***

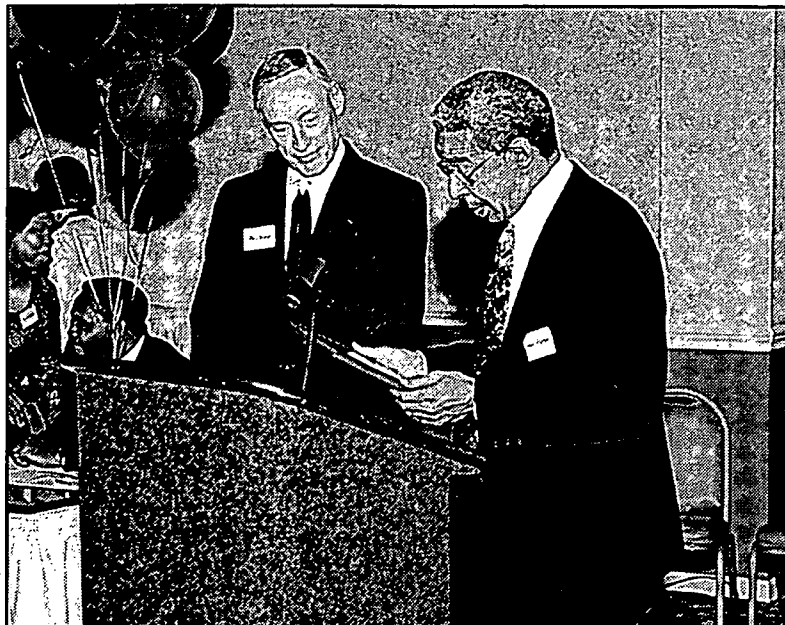
A newly created brochure, which describes the DOE Ohio Field Office and its five sites, is now available. A set of five baseball-type cards showing aerial views and containing



information about each of the five sites accompanies the brochure. To obtain the brochure, please call Mike Jacobs, DOE Public Affairs Office, 513-648-3043.

## ***"Blacks in Government" Honors Hamric and Townsend***

On Friday, Feb. 28, the Blacks in Government organization, Greater Cincinnati/ Miami Valley Chapter, held its second annual Scholarship Awards Gala at Receptions, in Fairfield. During the event, Phil Hamric, DOE Ohio Field Office manager, and Mike Townsend, Fluor Daniel Fernald Public Affairs, were honored for their dedication to diversity in the workplace. DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald are committed to diversity in the workplace and will continue to instill this value at the FEMP as the cleanup continues.



*James Jefferson, a presenter for the Blacks in Government organization, honors DOE Ohio Field Office Manager Phil Hamric with a plaque. Hamric and Mike Townsend were honored for their dedication to diversity in the workplace (6545-7).*

*Fluor Daniel Fernald President John Bradburne presented employee Mike Townsend with a plaque during the Blacks in Government organization's annual scholarship awards gala. The presentation was a proud moment for Townsend and his mother Mary (6545-52).*

## ***Enhanced Work Planning and Environmental Restoration Management Contracts Efforts Commended***

In a memorandum to Ohio Field Office Manager Phil Hamric, DOE Acting Associate Deputy Secretary for Field Management Franklin G. Peters commended FEMP workers for their accomplishments regarding the Enhanced Work Planning and Environmental Restoration Management contracts.

In the memo, dated Feb. 24, Peters wrote, "The DNFSB highlighted [the] FEMP as a model for the Department. The recognition received really puts your organization in a category all alone, as one far exceeding expectations . . . Please thank all those involved in this achievement."

## Fluor Daniel Fernald Awards Boiler Plant Demolition Project Contract

On Feb. 27, Fluor Daniel Fernald awarded the D&D Boiler Plant/Water Plant (BP/WP) Complex project contract to Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp., of Livingston, N.J. The award satisfies an EPA-enforceable milestone in the BP/WP Complex Implementation Plan.

Under its 18-month, firm-fixed price subcontract (approximately \$4 million), Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp. will decontaminate and demolish the BP/WP structures and segregate, cut, and containerize the construction debris. Fluor Daniel Fernald issued the formal "Notice to Proceed" to Foster Wheeler Environmental Corp. on March 7.



The BP/WP Complex includes the Boiler Plant, the Boiler Plant Maintenance Building, the Water Plant, cooling towers and six other components. The five-story Boiler Plant, which once used four coal-fired steam boilers to provide steam service to the entire site for heating, has been replaced with a smaller, gas-fired plant (6385-187).

## Peña Sworn in as Eighth Secretary of Energy

Federico F. Peña is the eighth person, and the first Hispanic, to serve as U.S. Secretary of Energy. Following confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he was sworn in to office March 12. A former mayor of Denver, Colo., Peña served as Secretary of Transportation in President Bill Clinton's first term. He begins his tenure at DOE committed to carrying on the agency's vital missions in national security, science and technology, energy resources, environmental quality and further invigorating U.S. economic competitiveness in the world economy.

At the Department of Transportation (DOT), Peña's leadership was instrumental in increasing the global competitiveness of America's transportation industry and improving travel safety. His "one-level" safety initiative at DOT standardized and improved safety across different categories of airlines. Peña also downsized the work force by 10 percent and cut miles of red tape, eliminating 1,450 pages of regulation.

In a statement issued by the White House, Clinton said, "I want to applaud the Senate today for its strong vote of support for Federico Peña to serve as our nation's new Energy Secretary. As Transportation Secretary, Federico Peña built

consensus among communities, business and government and streamlined operations to reap benefits for all taxpayers.

"With this record, I am confident that Secretary Peña has the skill, experience and dedication to lead the Energy Department to meet its central challenges — to broaden America's energy resources, to promote a safer, more secure world and to help to create a brighter economic future for all Americans," Clinton concluded.

"As we near the beginning of a new millennium, I am enthusiastic about America's future and the role that the men and women of the Department of Energy will play in creating it," said Secretary Peña. "The brilliant scientists and engineers, the unparalleled facilities of the national laboratories, and the top-notch work DOE produces will continue to support our country's long-term economic, energy, environmental and national security interests."

Peña earned his baccalaureate from the University of Texas, where he also received a law degree. He and his wife, Ellen, live with their two children in Alexandria, Va.



# Rail Upgrades Taking Shape at the FEMP

Railroad upgrades are progressing on schedule in support of the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project. Existing track on FEMP property is being upgraded; a railyard with a storage capacity to handle 135 gondola rail cars is being installed north of the former production area and just west of the north access road. Additional trestle repairs will be made, as necessary, along the rail spur connecting the FEMP with the CSXT mainline at Cottage Grove, Ind.

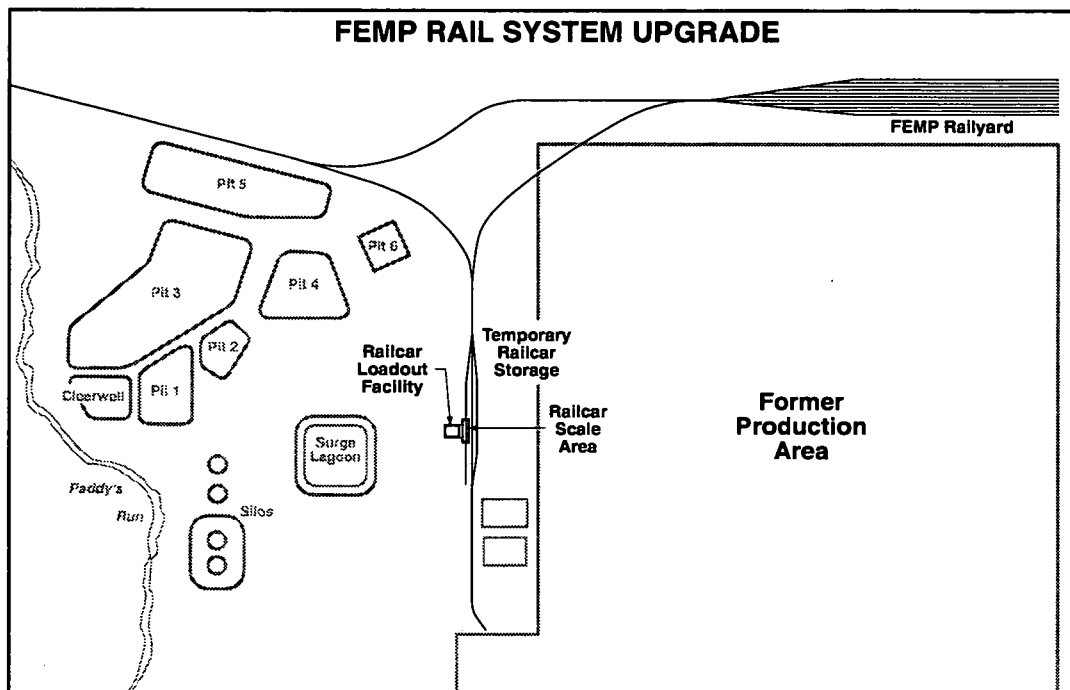
The trestle repairs are expected to begin in April 1997 and be completed by late 1997. All of these activities support the Operable Unit 1 record of decision to excavate, treat and ship by rail approximately 626,000 tons of pit waste and contaminated soils to a permitted commercial disposal facility.

On-site rail upgrades and site railyard construction are scheduled for completion in September 1997. This work is being performed by Annex Railroad Builders Inc., of Indianapolis. The existing site railroad, which will serve the remediation (thermal drying) and loadout facilities, is being reworked by Annex Railroad to accomodate additional planned rail traffic and the installation of a rail scale.

## Project Bids Due by April 4

A specialized subcontractor is being sought to perform certain aspects of the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project. DOE issued a request for proposals in January 1997. Bids are due by April 4, and the contract is expected to be awarded by Fall 1997. The selected subcontractor will be responsible for excavating the waste pit materials and surrounding soils; preparing the wastes for treatment sorting, crushing and shredding activities; treating the waste by a thermal-drying process; and loading the treated waste onto gondola rail cars for transportation and off-site disposal.

The subcontractor will be working with the Fernald Atomic Trades & Labor Council and the Greater Cincinnati Building and Construction Trades Council; both unions will provide labor during the project. Waste processing/loading is anticipated to begin in March 1999, and the Waste Pits Remedial Action Project is scheduled for completion in 2005.



Existing track on FEMP property is being upgraded; a railyard with a storage capacity to handle 135 gondola rail cars is being installed north of the former production area (4469 3/97).

## Independent Review Team Finalizing Silos Project Path Forward

For several months the Independent Review Team (IRT) has been gathering information and data in an effort to give technical advice and recommendations on the Silos Project path forward. At issue is the treatment of waste in Silos 1, 2 and 3. The IRT is currently finalizing its report.

On Feb. 12 and Feb. 26, availability sessions with the IRT were provided to allow stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the treatment alternatives, express concerns and offer input. DOE-FEMP and Fluor Daniel Fernald will consider the IRT's recommendations as it develops a path forward for the Silos Project. The path forward is due to U.S. EPA by May 15. The



The IRT is finalizing its report, which will contain recommendations regarding treatment of waste in Silos 1 and 2, shown with white domes, and Silo 3, far left (6385-112).

IRT's final report is expected to be available at the Public Environmental Information Center by the end of March.

Fernald Report March 1997

7

## Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee to Meet in May

The fourth meeting of the Fernald Health Effects Subcommittee (FHES) was held Feb. 12 through Feb 13 at the Plantation, in Harrison. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the FHES was formed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Diseases Registry (ATSDR). The FHES is a site-specific, formal advisory body composed of diverse community members who will offer advice on health research and public health activities connected with past or continuing operations at the FEMP.



Topics discussed during the two-day meeting included the National Academy of Science review of the Fernald Dosimetry Reconstruction project, an overview of birth defects research, epidemiology feasibility and an update on community-based risk assessment.

The next FHES meeting is scheduled for May 7 and May 8 at the Plantation. CDC and/or the ATSDR will announce the meeting times at a later date.



# Fernald Community Reuse Organization Presents Path Forward

The Community Reuse Organization (CRO) charged with providing recommendations to DOE on reuse, worker transition and economic development issues resulting from downsizing at the FEMP presented its draft Path Forward for public review on March 4 at Ross High School.

"The Path Forward is the result of several facilitated working sessions held during January and February involving all CRO members," said CRO Chair David McWilliams. "The process helped us identify who we are and what we hope to accomplish for the community."

Designed to set direction for the CRO over the next year, the Path Forward document identifies the following set of specific, interconnected strategies:

- **organizational structure** (address incorporation, membership, and consultant issues);
- **financial** (establish accounting/budgeting procedures; secure start-up grant; research other funding sources);
- **administration/evaluation** (establish specific timelines, success indicators, benchmarks and milestones);
- **focus areas** (develop action plans for FEMP land and property reuse and local economic transition issues including FEMP work force);
- **public involvement** (develop plan for involving stakeholders in the decision-making process);
- **internal and external communication** (develop plans to communicate and network with FEMP personnel, other CROs, government agencies etc.).



CRO members Maury Hombach, Lou Doll, Bob Tabor, Sharon Cornwell and Chair David McWilliams brainstorm during a working session to develop the CRO's path forward (6529-2).

Copies of the draft Path Forward are available to the public in the Public Environmental Information Center. Over the next month, the group plans to incorporate all input received on the draft document and prepare the final draft for approval at its April meeting. The next CRO meeting will be on April 1, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Ross High School Media Center.

To tackle some of the organizational and financial issues, the CRO also appointed a five-member board of directors. "One of the board's first actions will be to establish our infrastructure to secure the CRO's start-up grant from DOE," said McWilliams. "We hope to complete this process and have the start-up funding in hand within the next couple of months."

For more information on the Fernald CRO, please call or write to:

**Fernald Community Reuse Organization**  
P. O. Box 38  
Ross, OH 45061  
(513) 648-4168

## Career Development Center Opens Site Annex

The new Career Development Center annex, located at the FEMP, received a warm welcome from employees and management at its March 3 grand opening. Located in room S-16 of the FEMP Laboratory Building, the annex was filled to capacity on its opening day. "It's great to see so many people here," said Mitzi Bailey, a Career Development Center staff member who was present at the grand opening.

Donna Land, a forklift driver, was excited about the opportunity to take computer classes. "Some people don't want to go to college, but they're very interested in gaining some marketable skills," she said.

"It's really rewarding to see our ideas implemented," said John Preston from the First Committee, a grass-roots effort initiated by Fluor

Daniel Fernald employees to increase awareness of educational opportunities. "This is exactly what we had envisioned."

Fluor Daniel Fernald President John Bradburne said, "I appreciate the efforts of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council leadership, the Department of Energy and our Human Resources Department in making this center a reality."

Computers, phones, a fax machine, career resource materials and counseling services will be available at the annex for all Fluor Daniel Fernald employees. Former employees who are seeking assistance should continue using the resources at the Career Development Center's Springdale location. For more information, call the Career Development Center, 513-648-6301.

## Fluor Daniel Fernald Increases "HeartPower" Circulation at Ross Schools

"You can have a healthy heart, it's easy as 1, 2, 3! Eat healthy stuff; move around enough; live tobacco-free!" This was the message going to every Ross school district student enrolled in kindergarten through sixth grade, as a result of a grant from Fluor Daniel Fernald. The American Heart Association has developed its "HeartPower" kit, a series offered to educators to help them teach how the heart works, proper nutrition and exercises, as well as the dangers of tobacco. Normally, only one grade level per school would get the Heart Association kit. However, because of the Fluor Daniel Fernald gift, every student in the district will receive this information. By hearing this information early, students can learn to make heart-healthy choices that will last a lifetime.



Students at Elda Elementary are heart-smart! Amber Varin, left, checks the heart rate of Nick Baxter as part of the "HeartPower" curriculum, sponsored by the American Heart Association (6538-16).

## ***Laser-Induced Fluorescence Technology Saves Time and Enhances Worker Safety***

As part of the ongoing Large-Scale Technology Demonstration (LSTD) Project, a successful demonstration of the Laser-Induced Fluorescence (LIF) technology was recently conducted at the FEMP. The LIF technology reduces the amount of time it takes to perform radiological clearance surveys on buildings targeted for demolition.

The LIF instrument was developed by Bechtel's Special Technologies Laboratory in California, with assistance from DOE and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Laser light is used to "excite" uranium oxide molecules that may be present as a surface contaminant. The excited uranium molecules release energy in the form of fluorescence, which is then detected and displayed on a monitor attached to the laser. The laser can be operated in a panning motion to survey large areas quickly, or it can survey discreet 2-foot-by-three-foot areas, one at a time. Unlike physical swipes, which must be collected from the actual surface being surveyed, the LIF instrument can be operated up to 10 meters away from the surface being studied. Detection of surface contamination occurs virtually instantaneously.

The primary benefits of LIF technology are reduced time and labor required to complete radiological clearance surveys and reduced risk to workers performing the surveys.

## ***Thorium Overpacking Project Continues Ahead of Schedule***

The overpacking of thorium drums continues ahead of schedule. As of Feb. 28, a total of 3,973 drums had been packaged into 683 thorium overpacking containers since the project began



*The laser-induced fluorescence technology reduces time and labor required to complete radiological clearance surveys and it reduces risk to workers performing the surveys, eliminating the need for them to climb up and down scaffolding (6429-240).*

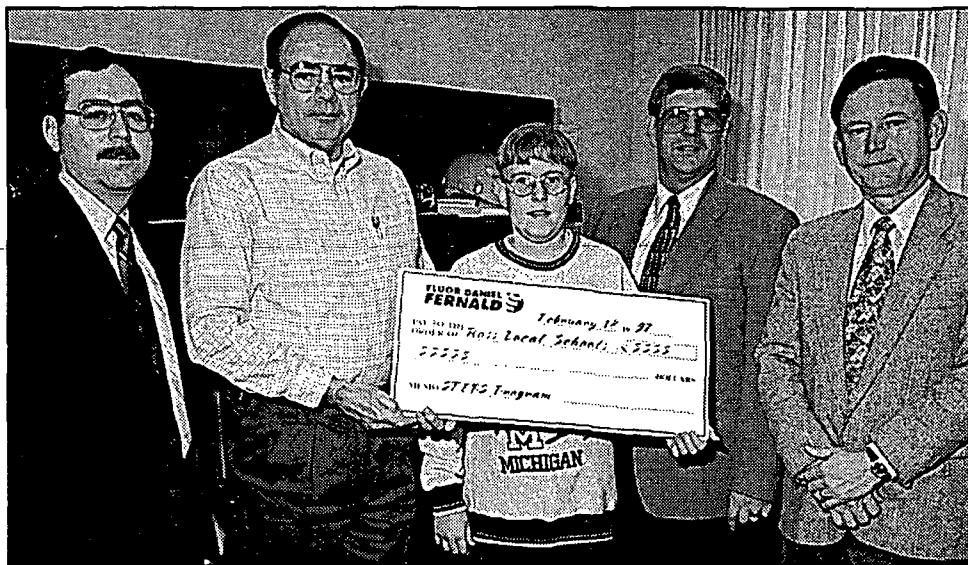
The LIF technology eliminates the need for workers to climb up and down scaffolding to collect physical samples from the various surfaces.

DOE-FEMP and Fluor Daniel Fernald intend to propose deployment of the LIF to perform radiological clearance surveys on buildings undergoing decontamination and dismantling, so the buildings can be opened to the atmosphere, allowing final D&D activities to resume in a more expedient manner. Results of the LIF demonstration and deployment through the FEMP's aggressive, advanced project will be shared with other DOE facilities that plan to undergo site remediation.

May 6, 1996. During February, 111 thorium overpacking containers were shipped to the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

## *Hands-on Experience May Nurture "Green Thumbs" in Ross Schools*

This year, Ross Middle School has initiated a School-To-Work program to give students practical, hands-on experiences that will prepare them for the everyday work world. Fluor Daniel Fernald demonstrated its support of this effort by donating funds to build a greenhouse on the school's grounds. Teachers will use the greenhouse in creating natural and physical science projects. Students are also participating in the planning, permitting and building of the greenhouse before it can even be used for classes.



*Fluor Daniel Fernald donates funds for a greenhouse at Ross Middle School. Pictured left to right are: Larry Stebbins, Fernald Envoy to the Ross Board of Education; John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president; Scott Lutterbie, sixth grade student; David McWilliams, Ross superintendent; Steve Kidd, Ross Middle School principal (6539-3).*

## *January and February Fluor Daniel Fernald Corporate Contributions*

The Corporate Contributions Program was developed to offer financial assistance to townships, groups, organizations, schools, and clubs located within the FEMP community as part of the Fluor Daniel Fernald good-neighbor policy and in the spirit of community service and support.

### **Education—\$1,796**

- Support of the sixth annual Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl
- Harrison High School to support the Engineering Club and Science Olympiad

### **Health and Human Services—\$1,141**

- Harrison Co-op Nursery
- National Hemophilia Foundation
- Lighthouse Youth Services

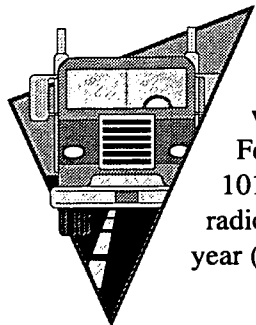
### **Cultural Arts—\$1,500**

- Cincinnati Art Museum
- Fitton Center for Creative Arts

### **Civic—\$5,400**

- Morgan Township Board of Trustees
- Rotary Club of Hamilton
- Mothers Against Drunk Drivers
- Four local youth baseball teams
- Arthritis Foundation
- Union Builders
- Aleta Mays-Martin Luther King Day
- Leading Women
- Blacks in Government
- African-American Heritage Month activities

# FEMP Waste Shipping Report



The volume, in cubic feet (cf), of low-level radioactive waste shipped to NTS for February 1997 was 26,548 (external). As of Feb. 28, the FEMP had shipped 101,310 cf (external) of low-level radioactive waste to NTS for fiscal year (FY) 1997.

Low-level radioactive waste volume reduction includes approximately 1,767 containers of legacy low-level uranium residue and 2,792 containers of thorium oxalates/hydroxides identified in *FY 1996 Inventory Reduction Plan for Legacy Wastes at the FEMP*.

During fiscal year 1997, the FEMP will direct efforts toward reducing legacy uranium residue and asbestos inventories, as well as the thorium oxalate/hydroxide inventory in Building 65.

The volume of low-level radioactive waste materials per waste stream shipped to NTS in February 1997 follows:

<u>Waste Stream</u>	<u>External Vol. (cf)</u>
Process Area Scrap	0
Thorium	14,356
Residues	11,072
Contaminated Trash	0
Construction	0
Stabilized Mixed Waste	1,120

The volume of low-level radioactive waste materials shipped to NTS per waste stream in January 1997 follows:

<u>Waste Stream</u>	<u>External Vol. (cf)</u>
Process Area Scrap	1,109
Thorium	59,701
Residues	27,687
Contaminated Trash	7,567
Construction	4,126
Stabilized Mixed Waste	1,120

## **Fernald Report**

U.S. Department of Energy  
Fernald Environmental Management Project  
P.O. Box 538705  
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705



Gary Stegner  
Public Information Director  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Fernald Environmental Management Project  
P.O. Box 538705  
Cincinnati, OH 45253-8705  
Telephone: 513-648-3153